

"Now that I have experienced what the death of a dear one is, and have watched it and waited for it, a deep yearning arises for some religion by which to console grief and stimulate action I have, if anything, less faith in the possibility of another life As I looked at our mother dying, *I felt* it was a final dissolution of soul and body—and an end of that personality which we call the spirit This was an instinctive conviction on this great question, we cannot reason But, though my disbelief in what we call immortality was strengthened, a new and wondrous faith has arisen within me—a faith in goodness—in God I must pray, I do pray and feel better for it, and more able to put aside all compromise with worldliness and to devote myself with single-heartedness to my duty "

The fundamental issue, faced sooner or later by every truly animate mind, already stood before her is the world a blind and infernal chaos, or is there in it some order, some deep underlying connexion, some pattern which justifies our "sense sublime of something far more deeply interfused"?

She felt an overpowering need to see what she has herself called "a purpose in the process " Much as its form was to change and develop, an accepted sense of purpose is the guiding thread, from this time on, in her life, and the key to its development

Practically, as well as spiritually, her mother's death was a turning-point She became, and until his death, ten years later, remained, not only the head of her father's household, and effective guardian of her one younger sister, but his close associate in business New responsibilities brought new strength "From being an anaemic girl, I became an exceptionally energetic woman",

one who
habitually put in many hours of hard and
exacting reading—
mathematics, logic, philosophy, economics—
before the
early breakfast that started the official day,
at 8 a m. It
was as a London society hostess, and not any
longer as a
mere marriageable girl, that she had that
intimate friend-
ship with Joseph Chamberlain—by far the
most brilliant
and challenging figure in the world of politics
at the time—